

PLEASE AMEND THIS APPLICATION AS FOLLOWS:

In The Claims:

Amend claims 183, 231 and 271 as follows:

183. (Amended) A composition of matter comprising:
a transparent non-porous or translucent non-porous system containing a fluid
or solution, which system comprises:

(i) a solid support;
(ii) a double-stranded oligonucleotide or polynucleotide which is
directly or indirectly fixed or immobilized to said solid support; and
(iii) a chemical label or labels attached to one of said strands, said
label or labels comprising a signaling entity or entities which are
quantifiable in or from said fluid or solution or in or through said
system, wherein said quantitation is or may be performed when said
double-stranded oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is still fixed or
immobilized to said solid support, said quantity being proportional to
the amount or quantity of said label or labels.

231. (Amended) A composition of matter comprising:
a transparent non-porous or translucent non-porous system containing a fluid
or solution, which system comprises:

a double-stranded oligonucleotide or polynucleotide which is
directly or indirectly fixed or immobilized to said system; and
a chemical label or labels attached to one of said strands, said
label or labels comprising a signaling entity or entities which are
quantifiable in or from said fluid or solution or in or through said
system, wherein said quantitation is or may be performed when said
double-stranded oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is still fixed or
immobilized to said system, said quantity being proportional to the
amount or quantity of said label or labels.

271. (Amended) A transparent non-porous or translucent non-porous system containing a fluid or solution, which system comprises:

(i) a double-stranded nucleic acid comprising an oligonucleotide or polynucleotide hybridized or hybridizable to an oligo- or polynucleotide sequence;

(ii) a chemical label or labels attached to one of said strands, said chemical label or labels comprising a signaling entity or entities which are quantifiable in or from said fluid or solution or in or through said system, said quantity being proportional to the amount or quantity of said label or labels; and

(iii) a solid support having directly or indirectly fixed or immobilized thereto said oligo- or polynucleotide sequence or said oligonucleotide or polynucleotide (i),

wherein said quantitation is or may be performed when said double-stranded oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is still fixed or immobilized to said solid support.

Add new claims 401-717 as follows:

-- 401. (NEW) A composition of matter comprising:

a transparent non-porous or translucent non-porous system containing a fluid or solution, which system comprises:

(i) a solid support;

(ii) a double-stranded oligonucleotide or polynucleotide which is directly or indirectly fixed or immobilized to said solid support, wherein when fixation or immobilization is direct, said double-stranded oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is non-centrifugally fixed or immobilized to said solid support; and

(iii) a chemical label or labels attached to one of said strands, said label or labels comprising a signaling entity or entities which are quantifiable in or from said fluid or solution or in or through said system, said quantity being proportional to the amount or quantity of said label or labels. --

-- 402. (NEW) The composition according to claim 401, wherein said solid support is contained within the transparent non-porous or translucent non-porous system. --

-- 403. (NEW) The composition according to claim 401, wherein said solid support is porous or non-porous. --

-- 404. (NEW) The composition according to claim 403, wherein said porous solid support comprises a porous polymeric material. --

-- 405. (NEW) The composition according to claim 404, wherein said porous polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of dextran, cellulose and nitrocellulose. --

-- 406. (NEW) The composition according to claim 403, wherein said non-porous solid support is selected from the group consisting of siliceous matter and non-porous polymeric material. --

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-- 407. (NEW) The composition according to claim 406, wherein said siliceous matter comprises glass or a glass-coated surface. --

-- 408. The composition according to claim 407, wherein said glass or glass-coated surface comprises porous glass. --

-- 409. (NEW) The composition according to claim 406, wherein said non-porous polymeric material comprises plastic or a plastic-coated surface. --

-- 410. (NEW) The composition according to claim 409, wherein said plastic or plastic-coated surface is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene and polyepoxide. --

-- 411. (NEW) The composition according to claim 401, wherein said system is selected from the group consisting of a well, a depression, a tube, a cuvette and a collection or set of said wells, depressions, tubes or cuvettes. --

-- 412. (NEW) The composition according to claim 411, wherein said well comprises a microtiter well. --

-- 413. (NEW) The composition according to claim 411, wherein said wells in the collection or set comprise microtiter wells. --

-- 414. (NEW) The composition according to claim 401, wherein said system is selected from the group consisting of a well, a depression, a tube, a cuvette and a collection or set of said wells, depressions, tubes or cuvettes, and said solid support is selected from the group consisting of dextran, cellulose, nitrocellulose, glass or a glass-coated surface and plastic or a plastic-coated surface. --

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-- 415. (NEW) The composition according to claim 401, wherein said solid support and said system are composed of the same materials. --

-- 416. (NEW) The composition according to claim 401, wherein said solid support and said system are composed of different materials. --

-- 417. (NEW) The composition according to claim 401, wherein said solid support and said system are the same. --

-- 418. (NEW) The composition according to claim 401, wherein said system functions as the solid support. --

-- 419. (NEW) The composition according to claim 401, wherein one of said oligonucleotide or polynucleotide strands is directly or indirectly fixed or immobilized to the solid support. --

-- 420. (NEW) The composition according to claim 401, wherein said oligonucleotide or polynucleotide strand is fixed or immobilized to the solid support by sandwich hybridization. --

-- 421. (NEW) The composition according to claim 401, wherein said double-stranded oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is selected from the group consisting of DNA, RNA and a DNA-RNA hybrid. --

-- 422. (NEW) The composition according to claim 401, wherein one of said strands comprises a nucleic acid sequence sought to be identified or quantified. --

-- 423. (NEW) The composition according to claim 422, wherein said nucleic acid sequence sought to be identified or quantified comprises a member selected from the group consisting of a gene or gene sequence, a pathogen or pathogenic sequence, an oncogene, and a combination of any of the foregoing. --

-- 424. (NEW) The composition according to claim 423, wherein any of said members comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of a deletion, an insertion, an inversion, a point mutation, and a combination of any of the foregoing. --
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-- 425. (NEW) The composition according to claims 401 or 421, wherein said oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is partially double-stranded. --

-- 426. (NEW) The composition according to claim 401, wherein said label or labels are the signaling entity or entities. --

-- 427. (NEW) The composition according to claim 401, wherein said label or labels are directly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

-- 428. (NEW) The composition according to claim 426, wherein said label or labels are directly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

-- 429. (NEW) The composition according to claim 401, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

-- 430. (NEW) The composition according to claim 426, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

-- 431. (NEW) The composition according to claim 429, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide through the formation of a complex. --

-- 432. (NEW) The composition according to claim 430, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide through the formation of a complex. --

-- 433. (NEW) The composition according to claim 431, wherein said complex is selected from the group consisting of biotin and avidin, biotin and streptavidin, a sugar and lectin, and an antigen and an antibody. --

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-- 434. (NEW) The composition according to claim 432, wherein said complex is selected from the group consisting of biotin and avidin, biotin and streptavidin, a sugar and lectin, and an antigen and an antibody. --

-- 435. (NEW) The composition according to claim 429, wherein said indirect attachment of said label or labels to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is through a bridging moiety. --

-- 436. (NEW) The composition according to claim 430, wherein said indirect attachment of said label or labels to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is through a bridging moiety. --

-- 437. (NEW) The composition according to claim 401, wherein the signaling entity or entities of said label or labels are directly or indirectly attached thereto. --

-- 438. (NEW) The composition according to claims 401 or 426, wherein said signaling entity or entities are directly produced. --

-- 439. (NEW) The composition according to claims 438, wherein said signaling entity or entities are selected from the group consisting of a chromagen, fluorescence and chemiluminescence. --

-- 440. (NEW) The composition according to claims 401 or 426, wherein said signaling entity or entities are selected from the group consisting of an enzyme, a co-enzyme, a chelating compound, a chromagen, a fluorescent compound and a chemiluminescent compound. --

-- 441. (NEW) The composition according to claims 401 or 426, wherein said signaling entity or entities are selected from the group consisting of a colored compound, a chemiluminescent compound and a fluorescent compound. --

-- 442. (NEW) The composition according to claim 441, wherein said colored compound comprises a dye. --

-- 443. (NEW) The composition according to claims 401, 426 or 438, wherein said chemical label or labels comprise self-indicating signaling entities. --

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-- 444. (NEW) The composition according to claim 443, wherein said self-indicating signaling entities are selected from the group consisting of a fluorescent compound, a chemiluminescent compound and a chromagen compound, and a combination of any of the foregoing. --

-- 445. (NEW) The composition according to claims 401 or 426, wherein said signaling entity or entities are indirectly produced or generated. --

-- 446. (NEW) The composition according to claim 445, wherein said signaling entity or entities are indirectly generated or generatable by an enzyme or enzymatic reaction. --

-- 447. (NEW) The composition according to claim 401, wherein said signaling entity or entities are detectable or quantifiable by a means selected from the group consisting of photometric techniques and colorimetric techniques. --

-- 448. (NEW) The composition according to claim 447, wherein said photometric means comprise spectrophotometric techniques. --

-- 449. (NEW). A composition of matter comprising:
a transparent non-porous or translucent non-porous system containing a fluid
or solution, which system comprises:
a double-stranded oligonucleotide or polynucleotide which is
directly or indirectly fixed or immobilized to said system, wherein
when fixation or immobilization is direct, said double-stranded
oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is non-centrifugally fixed or
immobilized to said system; and
a chemical label or labels attached to one of said strands, said
label or labels comprising a signaling entity or entities which are
quantifiable in or from said fluid or solution or in or through said
system, said quantity being proportional to the amount or quantity of
said label or labels. --

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-- 450. (NEW) The composition according to claim 449, wherein said non-porous
system is selected from the group consisting of siliceous matter and non-porous
polymeric material. --

-- 451. (NEW) The composition according to claim 450, wherein said siliceous
matter comprises glass or a glass-coated surface. --

-- 452. (NEW) The composition according to claim 451, wherein said glass or
glass-coated surface comprises porous glass. --

-- 453. (NEW) The composition according to claim 450, wherein said non-porous
polymeric material comprises plastic or a plastic-coated surface. --

-- 454. (NEW) The composition according to claim 453, wherein said plastic or
plastic-coated surface is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene,
polypropylene, polystyrene and polyepoxide. --

-- 455. (NEW) The composition according to claim 449, wherein said system is
selected from the group consisting of a well, a depression, a tube, a cuvette and a
collection or set of said wells, depressions, tubes or cuvettes. --

-- 456. (NEW) The composition according to claim 455, wherein said well comprises a microtiter well. --

-- 457. (NEW) The composition according to claim 455, wherein said wells in the collection or set comprise microtiter wells. --

-- 458. (NEW) The composition according to claim 449, wherein said system functions as a solid support. --

-- 459. (NEW) The composition according to claim 449, wherein one of said oligonucleotide or polynucleotide strands is directly or indirectly fixed or immobilized to said system. --

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-- 460. (NEW) The composition according to claim 449, wherein said oligonucleotide or polynucleotide strand is fixed or immobilized to said system by sandwich hybridization. --

-- 461. (NEW) The composition according to claim 449, wherein said double-stranded oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is selected from the group consisting of DNA, RNA and a DNA-RNA hybrid. --

-- 462. (NEW) The composition according to claim 449, wherein one of said strands comprises a nucleic acid sequence sought to be identified or quantified. --

-- 463. (NEW) The composition according to claim 462, wherein said nucleic acid sequence sought to be identified or quantified comprises a member selected from the group consisting of a gene or gene sequence, a pathogen or pathogenic sequence, an oncogene, and a combination of any of the foregoing. --

-- 464. (NEW) The composition according to claim 463, wherein any of said members comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of a deletion, an insertion, an inversion, a point mutation, and a combination of any of the foregoing. --

-- 465. (NEW) The composition according to claims 449 or 461, wherein said oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is partially double-stranded. --

-- 466. (NEW) The composition according to claim 449, wherein said label or labels are the signaling entity or entities. --

-- 467. (NEW) The composition according to claim 449, wherein said label or labels are directly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

-- 468. (NEW) The composition according to claim 466, wherein said label or labels are directly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

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-- 469. (NEW) The composition according to claim 449, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

-- 470. (NEW) The composition according to claim 466, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

-- 471. (NEW) The composition according to claim 469, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide through the formation of a complex. --

-- 472. (NEW) The composition according to claim 470, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide through the formation of a complex. --

-- 473. (NEW) The composition according to claim 471, wherein said complex is selected from the group consisting of biotin and avidin, biotin and streptavidin, a sugar and lectin, and an antigen and an antibody. --

-- 474. (NEW) The composition according to claim 472, wherein said complex is selected from the group consisting of biotin and avidin, biotin and streptavidin, a sugar and lectin, and an antigen and an antibody. --

-- 475. (NEW) The composition according to claim 469, wherein said indirect attachment of said label or labels to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is through a bridging moiety. --

-- 476. (NEW) The composition according to claim 470, wherein said indirect attachment of said label or labels to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is through a bridging moiety. --

-- 477. (NEW) The composition according to claim 449, wherein the signaling entity or entities of said label or labels are directly or indirectly attached thereto. --

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-- 478. (NEW) The composition according to claims 449 or 466, wherein said signaling entity or entities are directly produced. --

-- 479. (NEW) The composition according to claims 478, wherein said signaling entity or entities are selected from the group consisting of a chromagen, fluorescence and chemiluminescence. --

-- 480. (NEW) The composition according to claims 449 or 466, wherein said signaling entity or entities are selected from the group consisting of an enzyme, a co-enzyme, a chelating compound, a chromagen, a fluorescent compound and a chemiluminescent compound. --

-- 481. (NEW) The composition according to claims 449 or 466, wherein said signaling entity or entities are selected from the group consisting of a colored compound, a chemiluminescent compound and a fluorescent compound. --

-- 482. (NEW) The composition according to claim 481, wherein said colored compound comprises a dye. --

-- 483. (NEW) The composition according to claims 449, 466 or 482, wherein said chemical label or labels comprise self-indicating signaling entities. --

-- 484. (NEW) The composition according to claim 483, wherein said self-indicating signaling entities are selected from the group consisting of a fluorescent agent, a chemiluminescent agent and a chromagen, and a combination of any of the foregoing. --

-- 485. (NEW) The composition according to claims 449 or 466, wherein said signaling entity is indirectly produced or generated. --

-- 486. (NEW) The composition according to claim 485, wherein said signaling entity or entities are indirectly generatable by an enzyme or enzymatic reaction. --

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-- 487. (NEW) The composition according to claim 231, wherein said signaling entity or entities are detectable or quantifiable by a means selected from the group consisting of photometric techniques and colorimetric techniques. --

-- 488. (NEW) The composition according to claim 269, wherein said photometric means comprise spectrophotometric techniques. --

-- 489. (NEW) A transparent non-porous or translucent non-porous system containing a fluid or solution, which system comprises:

(i) a double-stranded nucleic acid comprising an oligonucleotide or polynucleotide hybridized or hybridizable to an oligo- or polynucleotide sequence;

(ii) a chemical label or labels attached to one of said strands, said chemical label or labels comprising a signaling entity or entities which are quantifiable in or from said fluid or solution or in or through said system, said quantity being proportional to the amount or quantity of said label or labels; and

(iii) a solid support having directly or indirectly fixed or immobilized thereto said oligo- or polynucleotide sequence or said oligonucleotide or polynucleotide (i),

wherein when fixation or immobilization is direct, said double-stranded oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is non-centrifugally fixed or immobilized to said solid support. --

-- 490. (NEW) The system according to claim 489, wherein said solid support is contained within the transparent non-porous or translucent non-porous system. --

-- 491. (NEW) The system according to claim 489, wherein said solid support is porous or non-porous. --

-- 492. (NEW) The system according to claim 491, wherein said porous solid support comprises a porous polymeric material. --

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-- 493. (NEW) The system according to claim 492, wherein said porous polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of dextran, cellulose and nitrocellulose. --

-- 494. (NEW) The system according to claim 489, wherein said non-porous solid support is selected from the group consisting of siliceous matter and non-porous polymeric material. --

-- 495. (NEW) The system according to claim 494, wherein said siliceous matter comprises glass or a glass-coated surface. --

-- 496. (NEW) The system according to claim 495, wherein said glass or glass-coated surface comprises porous glass. --

-- 497. (NEW) The system according to claim 494, wherein said non-porous polymeric material comprises plastic or a plastic-coated surface. --

-- 498. (NEW) The system according to claim 497, wherein said plastic or plastic-coated surface is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene and polyepoxide. --

-- 499. (NEW) The system according to claim 489, wherein said system is selected from the group consisting of a well, a depression, a tube, a cuvette and a collection or set of said wells, depressions, tubes or cuvettes. --

-- 500. (NEW) The system according to claim 499, wherein said well comprises a
microtiter well. --

-- 501. (NEW) The system according to claim 499, wherein said wells in the
collection or set comprise microtiter wells. --

-- 502. (NEW) The system according to claim 489, wherein said system is
selected from the group consisting of a well, a depression, a tube, a cuvette and a
collection or set of said wells, depressions, tubes or cuvettes, and said solid
support is selected from the group consisting of dextran, cellulose, nitrocellulose,
glass or a glass-coated surface and plastic or a plastic-coated surface. --

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-- 503. (NEW) The system according to claim 489, wherein said solid support and
said system are composed of the same materials. --

-- 504. (NEW) The system according to claim 489, wherein said solid support and
said system are composed of different materials. --

-- 505. (NEW) The system according to claim 489, wherein said solid support and
said system are the same. --

-- 506. (NEW) The system according to claim 489, wherein said system functions
as the solid support. --

-- 507. (NEW) The system according to claim 489, wherein one of said
oligonucleotide or polynucleotide strands is directly or indirectly fixed or
immobilized to the solid support. --

-- 508. (NEW) The system according to claim 489, wherein said oligonucleotide or
polynucleotide strand is fixed or immobilized to the solid support by sandwich
hybridization. --

-- 509. (NEW) The system according to claim 489, wherein said double-stranded oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is selected from the group consisting of DNA, RNA and a DNA-RNA hybrid. --

-- 510. (NEW) The system according to claim 489, wherein one of said strands comprises a nucleic acid sequence sought to be identified or quantified. --

-- 511. (NEW) The system according to claim 510, wherein said nucleic acid sequence sought to be identified or quantified comprises a member selected from the group consisting of a gene or gene sequence, a pathogen or pathogenic sequence, an oncogene, and a combination of any of the foregoing. --

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-- 512. (NEW) The system according to claim 511, wherein any of said members comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of a deletion, an insertion, an inversion, a point mutation, and a combination of any of the foregoing. --

-- 513. (NEW) The system according to claims 489 or 509, wherein said oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is partially double-stranded. --

-- 514. (NEW) The system according to claim 489, wherein said label or labels are the signaling entity or entities. ---

-- 515. (NEW) The system according to claim 489, wherein said label or labels are directly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

-- 516. (NEW) The system according to claim 514, wherein said label or labels are directly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

-- 517. (NEW) The system according to claim 489, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

-- 518. (NEW) The system according to claim 514, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

-- 519. (NEW) The system according to claim 517, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide through the formation of a complex. --

-- 520. (NEW) The system according to claim 518, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide through the formation of a complex. --

-- 521. (NEW) The system according to claim 519, wherein said complex is selected from the group consisting of biotin and avidin, biotin and streptavidin, a sugar and lectin, and an antigen and an antibody. --

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-- 522. (NEW) The system according to claim 520, wherein said complex is selected from the group consisting of biotin and avidin, biotin and streptavidin, a sugar and lectin, and an antigen and an antibody. --

-- 523. (NEW) The system according to claim 517, wherein said indirect attachment of said label or labels to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is through a bridging moiety. --

-- 524. (NEW) The system according to claim 518, wherein said indirect attachment of said label or labels to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is through a bridging moiety. --

-- 525. (NEW) The system according to claim 489, wherein the signaling entity or entities of said label or labels are directly or indirectly attached thereto. --

-- 526. (NEW) The system according to claims 489 or 514, wherein said signaling entity or entities are directly produced. --

-- 527. (NEW) The system according to claim 526, wherein said signaling entity or entities are selected from the group consisting of a chromagen, fluorescence and chemiluminescence. --

-- 528. (NEW) The system according to claims 489 or 514, wherein said signaling entity or entities are selected from the group consisting of an enzyme, a co-enzyme, a chelating compound, a chromagen, a fluorescent compound and a chemiluminescent compound. --

-- 529. (NEW) The system according to claims 489 or 514, wherein said signaling entity or entities are selected from the group consisting of a colored compound, a chemiluminescent compound and a fluorescent compound. --

-- 530. (NEW) The system according to claim 529, wherein said colored compound comprises a dye. --

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-- 531. (NEW) The system according to claims 489, 514 or 526, wherein said chemical label or labels comprise self-indicating signaling entities. --

-- 532. (NEW) The system according to claim 531, wherein said self-indicating signaling entities are selected from the group consisting of a fluorescent compound, a chemiluminescent compound and a chromagen compound, and a combination of any of the foregoing. --

-- 533. (NEW) The system according to claims 489 or 514, wherein said signaling entity or entities are indirectly produced or generated. --

-- 534. (NEW) The system according to claim 533, wherein said signaling entity or entities are indirectly generatable by an enzyme or enzymatic reaction. --

-- 535. (NEW) The system according to claim 489, wherein said signaling entity or entities are detectable or quantifiable by a means selected from the group consisting of photometric techniques and colorimetric techniques. --

-- 536. (NEW) The system according to claim 535, wherein said photometric means comprise spectrophotometric techniques. --

-- 537. (NEW) The composition of claim 401, wherein said solid support has been treated with a surface treatment agent. --

-- 538. (NEW) The composition of claim 537, wherein said surface treatment agent comprises an amine or amide compound. --

-- 539. (NEW) The composition of claim 538, wherein said amine compound is selected from the group consisting of duodecadiamine (DDA), polylysine (PPL), aminopropyltriethoxysilane and a combination of any of the foregoing. --

-- 540. (NEW) The composition of claim 538, wherein said amide compound comprises formamide. --

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-- 541. (NEW) The composition of claim 538, wherein said surface treatment agent comprises a dispersive compound. --

-- 542. (NEW) The composition of claim 541, wherein said dispersive compound comprises ammonium acetate. --

-- 543. (NEW) The composition of claim 538, wherein said surface treatment agent comprises an epoxy compound. --

-- 544. (NEW) The composition of claim 538, wherein said surface treatment agent is selected from the group consisting of an amine compound and an epoxy compound. --

-- 545. (NEW) The composition of claim 449, wherein a surface of said system to which said double-stranded oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is fixed or immobilized has been treated with a surface treatment agent. --

-- 546. (NEW) The composition of claim 545, wherein said surface treatment agent comprises an amine or amide compound. --

-- 547. (NEW) The composition of claim 546, wherein said amine compound is selected from the group consisting of duodecadiamine (DDA), polylysine (PPL), aminopropyltriethoxysilane and a combination of any of the foregoing. --

-- 548. (NEW) The composition of claim 546, wherein said amide compound comprises formamide. --

-- 549. (NEW) The composition of claim 545, wherein said surface treatment agent comprises a dispersive compound. --

-- 550. (NEW) The composition of claim 549, wherein said dispersive compound comprises ammonium acetate. --

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-- 551. (NEW) The composition of claim 545, wherein said surface treatment agent comprises an epoxy compound. --

-- 552. (NEW) The composition of claim 545, wherein said surface treatment agent is selected from the group consisting of an amine compound and an epoxy compound. --

-- 553. (NEW) The composition of claim 489, wherein said solid support has been treated with a surface treatment agent. --

-- 554. (NEW) The composition of claim 553, wherein said surface treatment agent comprises an amine or amide compound. --

-- 555. (NEW) The composition of claim 554, wherein said amine compound is selected from the group consisting of duodecadiamine (DDA), polylysine (PPL), aminopropyltriethoxysilane and a combination of any of the foregoing. --

-- 556. (NEW) The composition of claim 555, wherein said amide compound comprises formamide. --

-- 557. (NEW) The composition of claim 553, wherein said surface treatment agent comprises a dispersive compound. --

-- 558. (NEW) The composition of claim 557, wherein said dispersive compound comprises ammonium acetate. --

-- 559. (NEW) The composition of claim 553, wherein said surface treatment agent comprises an epoxy compound. --

-- 560. (NEW) The composition of claim 553, wherein said surface treatment agent is selected from the group consisting of an amine compound and an epoxy compound. --

-- 561. (NEW) A composition of matter comprising:
a transparent non-porous or translucent non-porous system containing a fluid or solution, which system comprises:

(i) a solid support;
(ii) a double-stranded oligonucleotide or polynucleotide, one strand of which is directly or indirectly fixed or immobilized to said solid support, and the other strand of which is fixed or immobilized through hybridization with said one strand; and
(iii) a chemical label or labels attached to one of said strands, said label or labels comprising a signaling entity or entities which are quantifiable in or from said fluid or solution or in or through said system, said quantity being proportional to the amount or quantity of said label or labels. --

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-- 562. (NEW) The composition according to claim 561, wherein said solid support is contained within the transparent non-porous or translucent non-porous system. --

-- 563. (NEW) The composition according to claim 561, wherein said solid support is porous or non-porous. --

-- 564. (NEW) The composition according to claim 563, wherein said porous solid support comprises a porous polymeric material. --

-- 565. (NEW) The composition according to claim 564, wherein said porous polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of dextran, cellulose and nitrocellulose. --

-- 566. (NEW) The composition according to claim 563, wherein said non-porous solid support is selected from the group consisting of siliceous matter and non-porous polymeric material. --

-- 567. (NEW) The composition according to claim 566, wherein said siliceous matter comprises glass or a glass-coated surface. --

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-- 568. The composition according to claim 567, wherein said glass or glass-coated surface comprises porous glass. --

-- 569. (NEW) The composition according to claim 566, wherein said non-porous polymeric material comprises plastic or a plastic-coated surface. --

-- 570. (NEW) The composition according to claim 569, wherein said plastic or plastic-coated surface is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene and polyepoxide. --

-- 571. (NEW) The composition according to claim 561, wherein said system is selected from the group consisting of a well, a depression, a tube, a cuvette and a collection or set of said wells, depressions, tubes or cuvettes. --

-- 572. (NEW) The composition according to claim 571, wherein said well comprises a microtiter well. --

-- 573. (NEW) The composition according to claim 571, wherein said wells in the collection or set comprise microtiter wells. --

-- 574. (NEW) The composition according to claim 561, wherein said system is selected from the group consisting of a well, a depression, a tube, a cuvette and a collection or set of said wells, depressions, tubes or cuvettes, and said solid support is selected from the group consisting of dextran, cellulose, nitrocellulose, glass or a glass-coated surface and plastic or a plastic-coated surface. --

-- 575. (NEW) The composition according to claim 561, wherein said solid support and said system are composed of the same materials. --

-- 576. (NEW) The composition according to claim 561, wherein said solid support and said system are composed of different materials. --

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-- 577. (NEW) The composition according to claim 561, wherein said solid support and said system are the same. --

-- 578. (NEW) The composition according to claim 561, wherein said system functions as the solid support. --

-- 579. (NEW) The composition according to claim 561, wherein said oligonucleotide or polynucleotide strand is fixed or immobilized to the solid support by sandwich hybridization. --

-- 580. (NEW) The composition according to claim 561, wherein said double-stranded oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is selected from the group consisting of DNA, RNA and a DNA-RNA hybrid. --

-- 581. (NEW) The composition according to claim 561, wherein one of said strands comprises a nucleic acid sequence sought to be identified or quantified. --

-- 582. (NEW) The composition according to claim 581, wherein said nucleic acid sequence sought to be identified or quantified comprises a member selected from the group consisting of a gene or gene sequence, a pathogen or pathogenic sequence, an oncogene, and a combination of any of the foregoing. --

-- 583. (NEW) The composition according to claim 582, wherein any of said members comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of a deletion, an insertion, an inversion, a point mutation, and a combination of any of the foregoing. --

-- 584. (NEW) The composition according to claims 561 or 580, wherein said oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is partially double-stranded. --

-- 585. (NEW) The composition according to claim 561, wherein said label or labels are the signaling entity or entities. --

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-- 586. (NEW) The composition according to claim 561, wherein said label or labels are directly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

-- 587. (NEW) The composition according to claim 585, wherein said label or labels are directly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

-- 588. (NEW) The composition according to claim 561, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

-- 589. (NEW) The composition according to claim 585, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

-- 590. (NEW) The composition according to claim 588, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide through the formation of a complex. --

-- 591. (NEW) The composition according to claim 589, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide through the formation of a complex. --

-- 592. (NEW) The composition according to claim 590, wherein said complex is selected from the group consisting of biotin and avidin, biotin and streptavidin, a sugar and lectin, and an antigen and an antibody. --

-- 593. (NEW) The composition according to claim 591, wherein said complex is selected from the group consisting of biotin and avidin, biotin and streptavidin, a sugar and lectin, and an antigen and an antibody. --

-- 594. (NEW) The composition according to claim 588, wherein said indirect attachment of said label or labels to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is through a bridging moiety. --

-- 595. (NEW) The composition according to claim 589, wherein said indirect attachment of said label or labels to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is through a bridging moiety. --

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-- 596. (NEW) The composition according to claim 561, wherein the signaling entity or entities of said label or labels are directly or indirectly attached thereto. --

-- 597. (NEW) The composition according to claims 561 or 585, wherein said signaling entity or entities are directly produced. --

-- 598. (NEW) The composition according to claims 597, wherein said signaling entity or entities are selected from the group consisting of a chromagen, fluorescence and chemiluminescence. --

-- 599. (NEW) The composition according to claims 561 or 585, wherein said signaling entity or entities are selected from the group consisting of an enzyme, a co-enzyme, a chelating compound, a chromagen, a fluorescent compound and a chemiluminescent compound. --

-- 600. (NEW) The composition according to claims 561 or 585, wherein said signaling entity or entities are selected from the group consisting of a colored compound, a chemiluminescent compound and a fluorescent compound. --

-- 601. (NEW) The composition according to claim 600, wherein said colored compound comprises a dye. --

-- 602. (NEW) The composition according to claims 561, 585 or 597, wherein
said chemical label or labels comprise self-indicating signaling entities. --

-- 603. (NEW) The composition according to claim 602, wherein said self-
indicating signaling entities are selected from the group consisting of a fluorescent
compound, a chemiluminescent compound and a chromagen compound, and a
combination of any of the foregoing. --

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-- 604. (NEW) The composition according to claims 561 or 585, wherein said
signaling entity or entities are indirectly produced or generated. --

-- 605. (NEW) The composition according to claim 604, wherein said signaling
entity or entities are indirectly generated or generatable by an enzyme or enzymatic
reaction. --

-- 606. (NEW) The composition according to claim 561, wherein said signaling
entity or entities are detectable or quantifiable by a means selected from the group
consisting of photometric techniques and colorimetric techniques. --

-- 607. (NEW) The composition according to claim 606, wherein said photometric
means comprise spectrophotometric techniques. --

-- 608. (NEW). A composition of matter comprising:
a transparent non-porous or translucent non-porous system containing a fluid
or solution, which system comprises:
a double-stranded oligonucleotide or polynucleotide, one strand
of which is directly or indirectly fixed or immobilized to said system,
and the other strand of which is fixed or immobilized through
hybridization with said one strand; and
a chemical label or labels attached to one of said strands, said
label or labels comprising a signaling entity or entities which are
quantifiable in or from said fluid or solution or in or through said
system, said quantity being proportional to the amount or quantity of
said label or labels. --

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-- 609. (NEW) The composition according to claim 608, wherein said non-porous
system is selected from the group consisting of siliceous matter and non-porous
polymeric material. --

-- 610. (NEW) The composition according to claim 609, wherein said siliceous
matter comprises glass or a glass-coated surface. --

-- 611. (NEW) The composition according to claim 610, wherein said glass or
glass-coated surface comprises porous glass. --

-- 612. (NEW) The composition according to claim 609, wherein said non-porous
polymeric material comprises plastic or a plastic-coated surface. --

-- 613. (NEW) The composition according to claim 612, wherein said plastic or
plastic-coated surface is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene,
polypropylene, polystyrene and polyepoxide. --

-- 614. (NEW) The composition according to claim 608, wherein said system is
selected from the group consisting of a well, a depression, a tube, a cuvette and a
collection or set of said wells, depressions, tubes or cuvettes. --

cont

-- 615. (NEW) The composition according to claim 614, wherein said well comprises a microtiter well. --

-- 616. (NEW) The composition according to claim 614, wherein said wells in the collection or set comprise microtiter wells. --

-- 617. (NEW) The composition according to claim 608, wherein said system functions as a solid support. --

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-- 618. (NEW) The composition according to claim 608, wherein said oligonucleotide or polynucleotide strand is fixed or immobilized to said system by sandwich hybridization. --

-- 619. (NEW) The composition according to claim 608, wherein said double-stranded oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is selected from the group consisting of DNA, RNA and a DNA-RNA hybrid. --

-- 620. (NEW) The composition according to claim 608, wherein one of said strands comprises a nucleic acid sequence sought to be identified or quantified. --

-- 621. (NEW) The composition according to claim 620, wherein said nucleic acid sequence sought to be identified or quantified comprises a member selected from the group consisting of a gene or gene sequence, a pathogen or pathogenic sequence, an oncogene, and a combination of any of the foregoing. --

-- 622. (NEW) The composition according to claim 621, wherein any of said members comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of a deletion, an insertion, an inversion, a point mutation, and a combination of any of the foregoing. --

-- 623. (NEW) The composition according to claims 608 or 619, wherein said oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is partially double-stranded. --

-- 624. (NEW) The composition according to claim 608, wherein said label or labels are the signaling entity or entities. --

-- 625. (NEW) The composition according to claim 608, wherein said label or labels are directly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

-- 626. (NEW) The composition according to claim 624, wherein said label or labels are directly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

-- 627. (NEW) The composition according to claim 608, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

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-- 628. (NEW) The composition according to claim 624, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

-- 629. (NEW) The composition according to claim 627, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide through the formation of a complex. --

-- 630. (NEW) The composition according to claim 628, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide through the formation of a complex. --

-- 631. (NEW) The composition according to claim 629, wherein said complex is selected from the group consisting of biotin and avidin, biotin and streptavidin, a sugar and lectin, and an antigen and an antibody. --

-- 632. (NEW) The composition according to claim 630, wherein said complex is selected from the group consisting of biotin and avidin, biotin and streptavidin, a sugar and lectin, and an antigen and an antibody. --

-- 633. (NEW) The composition according to claim 627, wherein said indirect attachment of said label or labels to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is through a bridging moiety. --

-- 634. (NEW) The composition according to claim 628, wherein said indirect attachment of said label or labels to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is through a bridging moiety. --

-- 635. (NEW) The composition according to claim 608, wherein the signaling entity or entities of said label or labels are directly or indirectly attached thereto. --

-- 636. (NEW) The composition according to claims 608 or 624, wherein said signaling entity or entities are directly produced. --

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-- 637. (NEW) The composition according to claims 636, wherein said signaling entity or entities are selected from the group consisting of a chromagen, fluorescence and chemiluminescence. --

-- 638. (NEW) The composition according to claims 608 or 624, wherein said signaling entity or entities are selected from the group consisting of an enzyme, a co-enzyme, a chelating compound, a chromagen, a fluorescent compound and a chemiluminescent compound. --

-- 639. (NEW) The composition according to claims 608 or 624, wherein said signaling entity or entities are selected from the group consisting of a colored compound, a chemiluminescent compound and a fluorescent compound. --

-- 640. (NEW) The composition according to claim 639, wherein said colored compound comprises a dye. --

-- 641. (NEW) The composition according to claims 608, 624 or 640, wherein said chemical label or labels comprise self-indicating signaling entities. --

-- 642. (NEW) The composition according to claim 641, wherein said self-indicating signaling entities are selected from the group consisting of a fluorescent agent, a chemiluminescent agent and a chromagen, and a combination of any of the foregoing. --

-- 643. (NEW) The composition according to claims 608 or 624, wherein said signaling entity is indirectly produced or generated. --

-- 644. (NEW) The composition according to claim 643, wherein said signaling entity or entities are indirectly generatable by an enzyme or enzymatic reaction. --

-- 645. (NEW) The composition according to claim 608, wherein said signaling entity or entities are detectable or quantifiable by a means selected from the group consisting of photometric techniques and colorimetric techniques. --

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-- 646. (NEW) The composition according to claim 645, wherein said photometric means comprise spectrophotometric techniques. --

-- 647. (NEW) A transparent non-porous or translucent non-porous system containing a fluid or solution, which system comprises:

- (i) a double-stranded nucleic acid comprising an oligonucleotide or polynucleotide hybridized or hybridizable to an oligo- or polynucleotide sequence;
- (ii) a chemical label or labels attached to one of said strands, said chemical label or labels comprising a signaling entity or entities which are quantifiable in or from said fluid or solution or in or through said system, said quantity being proportional to the amount or quantity of said label or labels; and
- (iii) a solid support having directly or indirectly fixed or immobilized thereto said oligo- or polynucleotide sequence or said oligonucleotide or polynucleotide (i),

wherein one strand of said double-stranded nucleic acid is directly or indirectly fixed or immobilized to said solid support, and the other strand of which is fixed or immobilized through hybridization with said one strand. --

-- 648. (NEW) The system according to claim 647, wherein said solid support is contained within the transparent non-porous or translucent non-porous system. --

-- 649. (NEW) The system according to claim 647, wherein said solid support is porous or non-porous. --

-- 650. (NEW) The system according to claim 649, wherein said porous solid support comprises a porous polymeric material. --

-- 651. (NEW) The system according to claim 650, wherein said porous polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of dextran, cellulose and nitrocellulose. --

-- 652. (NEW) The system according to claim 647, wherein said non-porous solid support is selected from the group consisting of siliceous matter and non-porous polymeric material. --

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-- 653. (NEW) The system according to claim 652, wherein said siliceous matter comprises glass or a glass-coated surface. --

-- 654. (NEW) The system according to claim 653, wherein said glass or glass-coated surface comprises porous glass. --

-- 655. (NEW) The system according to claim 652, wherein said non-porous polymeric material comprises plastic or a plastic-coated surface. --

-- 656. (NEW) The system according to claim 655, wherein said plastic or plastic-coated surface is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene and polyepoxide. --

-- 657. (NEW) The system according to claim 647, wherein said system is selected from the group consisting of a well, a depression, a tube, a cuvette and a collection or set of said wells, depressions, tubes or cuvettes. --

-- 658. (NEW) The system according to claim 657, wherein said well comprises a microtiter well. --

-- 659. (NEW) The system according to claim 657, wherein said wells in the collection or set comprise microtiter wells. --

-- 660. (NEW) The system according to claim 647, wherein said system is selected from the group consisting of a well, a depression, a tube, a cuvette and a collection or set of said wells, depressions, tubes or cuvettes, and said solid support is selected from the group consisting of dextran, cellulose, nitrocellulose, glass or a glass-coated surface and plastic or a plastic-coated surface. --

-- 661. (NEW) The system according to claim 647, wherein said solid support and said system are composed of the same materials. --

-- 662. (NEW) The system according to claim 647, wherein said solid support and said system are composed of different materials. --

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-- 663. (NEW) The system according to claim 647, wherein said solid support and said system are the same. --

-- 664. (NEW) The system according to claim 647, wherein said system functions as the solid support. --

-- 665. (NEW) The system according to claim 647, wherein said oligonucleotide or polynucleotide strand is fixed or immobilized to the solid support by sandwich hybridization. --

-- 666. (NEW) The system according to claim 648, wherein said double-stranded oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is selected from the group consisting of DNA, RNA and a DNA-RNA hybrid. --

-- 667. (NEW) The system according to claim 647, wherein one of said strands comprises a nucleic acid sequence sought to be identified or quantified. --

-- 668. (NEW) The system according to claim 667, wherein said nucleic acid sequence sought to be identified or quantified comprises a member selected from the group consisting of a gene or gene sequence, a pathogen or pathogenic sequence, an oncogene, and a combination of any of the foregoing. --

-- 669. (NEW) The system according to claim 668, wherein any of said members comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of a deletion, an insertion, an inversion, a point mutation, and a combination of any of the foregoing. --

-- 670. (NEW) The system according to claims 647 or 666, wherein said oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is partially double-stranded. --

-- 671. (NEW) The system according to claim 647, wherein said label or labels are the signaling entity or entities. --

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-- 672. (NEW) The system according to claim 647, wherein said label or labels are directly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

-- 673. (NEW) The system according to claim 671, wherein said label or labels are directly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

-- 674. (NEW) The system according to claim 647, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

-- 675. (NEW) The system according to claim 671, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. --

-- 676. (NEW) The system according to claim 674, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide through the formation of a complex. --

-- 677. (NEW) The system according to claim 675, wherein said label or labels are indirectly attached to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide through the formation of a complex. --

-- 678. (NEW) The system according to claim 676, wherein said complex is selected from the group consisting of biotin and avidin, biotin and streptavidin, a sugar and lectin, and an antigen and an antibody. --

-- 679. (NEW) The system according to claim 677, wherein said complex is selected from the group consisting of biotin and avidin, biotin and streptavidin, a sugar and lectin, and an antigen and an antibody. --

-- 680. (NEW) The system according to claim 674, wherein said indirect attachment of said label or labels to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is through a bridging moiety. --

-- 681. (NEW) The system according to claim 677, wherein said indirect attachment of said label or labels to the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is through a bridging moiety. --

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-- 682. (NEW) The system according to claim 647, wherein the signaling entity or entities of said label or labels are directly or indirectly attached thereto. --

-- 683. (NEW) The system according to claims 647 or 671, wherein said signaling entity or entities are directly produced. --

-- 684. (NEW) The system according to claim 683, wherein said signaling entity or entities are selected from the group consisting of a chromagen, fluorescence and chemiluminescence. --

-- 685. (NEW) The system according to claims 647 or 671, wherein said signaling entity or entities are selected from the group consisting of an enzyme, a co-enzyme, a chelating compound, a chromagen, a fluorescent compound and a chemiluminescent compound. --

-- 686. (NEW) The system according to claims 647 or 671, wherein said signaling entity or entities are selected from the group consisting of a colored compound, a chemiluminescent compound and a fluorescent compound. --

-- 687. (NEW) The system according to claim 686, wherein said colored compound comprises a dye. --

-- 688. (NEW) The system according to claims 647, 671 or 683, wherein said chemical label or labels comprise self-indicating signaling entities. --

-- 689. (NEW) The system according to claim 688, wherein said self-indicating signaling entities are selected from the group consisting of a fluorescent compound, a chemiluminescent compound and a chromagen compound, and a combination of any of the foregoing. --

-- 690. (NEW) The system according to claims 647 or 671, wherein said signaling entity or entities are indirectly produced or generated. --

-- 691. (NEW) The system according to claim 690, wherein said signaling entity or entities are indirectly generatable by an enzyme or enzymatic reaction. --

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-- 692. (NEW) The system according to claim 647, wherein said signaling entity or entities are detectable or quantifiable by a means selected from the group consisting of photometric techniques and colorimetric techniques. --

-- 693. (NEW) The system according to claim 692, wherein said photometric means comprise spectrophotometric techniques. --

-- 694. (NEW) The composition of claim 561, wherein said solid support has been treated with a surface treatment agent. --

-- 695. (NEW) The composition of claim 694, wherein said surface treatment agent comprises an amine or amide compound. --

-- 696. (NEW) The composition of claim 695, wherein said amine compound is selected from the group consisting of duodecadiamine (DDA), polylysine (PPL), aminopropyltriethoxysilane and a combination of any of the foregoing. --

-- 697. (NEW) The composition of claim 695, wherein said amide compound comprises formamide. --

-- 698. (NEW) The composition of claim 694, wherein said surface treatment agent comprises a dispersive compound. --

-- 699. (NEW) The composition of claim 698, wherein said dispersive compound comprises ammonium acetate. --

-- 700. (NEW) The composition of claim 694, wherein said surface treatment agent comprises an epoxy compound. --

-- 701. (NEW) The composition of claim 694, wherein said surface treatment agent is selected from the group consisting of an amine compound and an epoxy compound. --

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-- 702. (NEW) The composition of claim 608, wherein a surface of said system to which said double-stranded oligonucleotide or polynucleotide is fixed or immobilized has been treated with a surface treatment agent. --

-- 703. (NEW) The composition of claim 702, wherein said surface treatment agent comprises an amine or amide compound. --

-- 704. (NEW) The composition of claim 703, wherein said amine compound is selected from the group consisting of duodecadiamine (DDA), polylysine (PPL), aminopropyltriethoxysilane and a combination of any of the foregoing. --

-- 705. (NEW) The composition of claim 703, wherein said amide compound comprises formamide. --

-- 706. (NEW) The composition of claim 702, wherein said surface treatment agent comprises a dispersive compound. --

-- 707. (NEW) The composition of claim 706, wherein said dispersive compound comprises ammonium acetate. --

-- 708. (NEW) The composition of claim 702, wherein said surface treatment agent comprises an epoxy compound. --

-- 709. (NEW) The composition of claim 702, wherein said surface treatment agent is selected from the group consisting of an amine compound and an epoxy compound. --

-- 710. (NEW) The composition of claim 647, wherein said solid support has been treated with a surface treatment agent. --

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-- 711. (NEW) The composition of claim 710, wherein said surface treatment agent comprises an amine or amide compound. --

-- 712. (NEW) The composition of claim 711, wherein said amine compound is selected from the group consisting of duodecadiamine (DDA), polylysine (PPL), aminopropyltriethoxysilane and a combination of any of the foregoing. --

-- 713. (NEW) The composition of claim 711, wherein said amide compound comprises formamide. --

-- 714. (NEW) The composition of claim 710, wherein said surface treatment agent comprises a dispersive compound. --

-- 715. (NEW) The composition of claim 714, wherein said dispersive compound comprises ammonium acetate. --

-- 716. (NEW) The composition of claim 710, wherein said surface treatment agent comprises an epoxy compound. --

-- 717. (NEW) The composition of claim 710, wherein said surface treatment agent is selected from the group consisting of an amine compound and an epoxy compound. --

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